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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Report of the Second Committee (Part IX)*

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 96 (see A/51/604, para. 2). Action on questions not related to specific sub-items was taken at the 34th and 37th meetings, on 12 November and 2 December 1996. An account of the Committee's consideration of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.34 and 37).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS A/C.2/51/L.23 AND L.45

2. At the 34th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Costa Rica, on behalf of the States Members that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.23) entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system", which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Noting the report of the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system,[1] as well as the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

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* The report of the Committee on this agenda item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/604 and addenda.

[1] A/51/314.

Organization on the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, held in Harare from 2 to 5 September 1996,

"Recalling its resolution 50/130 of 20 December 1995 on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system,

"1. Takes note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

"2. Considers that informal round tables, such as the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development organized in Harare by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, constitute an effective mechanism of inter-agency cooperation and coordination for promoting and advancing communication for development due to, inter alia, their grass-roots participation, their openness to partners outside the United Nations system and the outreach of their outcomes;

"3. Recognizes the importance of strengthening the intergovernmental process within the United Nations system in the field of communication and development;

"4. Takes note of the recommendations contained in the report of the sixth Round Table, and invites all actors in development at the country level, including the agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, to take the observations contained in the report into consideration when planning and implementing projects and programmes, with the cooperation of the resident coordinator;

"5. Stresses the need to support participatory communication for development as an important process for increasing people's participation, encouraging dialogue and the ownership of development efforts by their beneficiaries, and contributing to the empowerment of people for development;

"6. Recognizes the relevance for policy makers and decision makers at all levels to give increased priority to communication for development, and hence to include it as an integral component in every development project or programme;

"7. Recommends that the next informal round table be held in the Latin American and Caribbean region to build upon the meetings held in Asia and Africa so as to be close to the reality and needs of the developing countries, without losing sight of global perspectives, and invites Member States to cooperate with the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the regular convening of informal round tables on communication for development, with the full participation of the international financial institutions at the country level;

"8. Reaffirms the paramount importance of financial cooperation and the transfer of technology in the context of communication for development

programmes and projects, and calls upon the international community and the organizations of the United Nations system to assist Governments in introducing technologies and innovative methods for enhancing communication for development;

"9. Stresses that resources mobilization remains an important objective for capacity-building in the area of communication for development;

"10. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the agency with the principal mandate in the field of communication in the United Nations system, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with the periodicity that was agreed upon in Assembly resolution 50/130."

3. At the 37th meeting, on 2 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Mohammad Reza Hadji Karim Djabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/51/L.45), submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.23.

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.45 (see para. 6).

5. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.45, draft resolution A/C.2/51/L.23 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

6. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Communication for development programmes in the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system,[2] as well as the report prepared by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, held at Harare from 2 to 5 September 1996, and the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Communication for development programmes in the United Nations

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[2] A/51/314.

system"[3] and the comments of the Administrative Committee on Coordination thereon,[4]

1. Recalls its resolution 50/130 of 20 December 1995 on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system;

2. Considers that informal round tables, such as the sixth Inter-Agency Round Table on Communication for Development, organized at Harare by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, can constitute a notable mechanism of inter-agency cooperation and coordination for promoting and advancing communication for development, owing, inter alia, to their openness to partners outside the United Nations system and the outreach of their outcomes;

3. Recognizes the importance of addressing the issue of communication for development within the intergovernmental processes of the United Nations system, according to the respective mandates of the agencies concerned;

4. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on communication for development programmes in the United Nations system,[2] and invites the agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to take the recommendations contained in the report into consideration when planning and implementing relevant projects and programmes, with the cooperation of the resident coordinator;

5. Recognizes the relevance for concerned actors in development at the country level, including policy makers and decision makers at all levels, to attribute increased importance to communication for development, and encourages them to include it, in an appropriate manner, as an integral component in the development of projects and programmes;

6. Stresses the need to support two-way communication systems that enable dialogue and that allow communities to speak out, express their aspirations and concerns and participate in the decisions that relate to their development;

7. Acknowledges the interest in holding the next informal round table in the Latin American and Caribbean region, to build upon the meetings held in Asia and Africa, and invites interested States to cooperate with the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system in the convening of these informal round tables on communication for development, with the participation of the international financial institutions and the regional banks, at the country level;

8. Reaffirms the importance of resource mobilization, including financial cooperation, the transfer of technology and capacity-building for communication in development programmes and projects, and calls upon the international community and organizations of the United Nations system to assist developing

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[3] A/50/126-E/1995/20, annex.

[4] A/50/126/Add.1-E/1995/20/Add.1, annex.

countries in introducing technologies and innovative methods for enhancing communication for development;

9. Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in accordance with the agency's mandate, to inform the General Assembly officially, at its fifty-third session, under an appropriate agenda item, on the implementation of the present resolution, in accordance with the periodicity that was agreed upon in Assembly resolution 50/130.